

ESSB 5872 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Appropriations

ADOPTED 04/07/2005

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A joint task force is created to determine
4 the most appropriate and effective administrative structure for
5 delivery of social and health services to the children and families of
6 the state. The joint task force shall study how best to ensure that an
7 administrative structure has defined lines of responsibility for
8 delivering services to children and families in need and the best means
9 for the public to hold government accountable for delivery of those
10 services. The joint task force shall compare the effectiveness of:
11 Including social and health services to children and families within an
12 umbrella agency, such as the current department of social and health
13 services; establishing a separate agency for social and health services
14 to children and families whose administrator reports directly to the
15 governor; or creating a children and family services cabinet reporting
16 directly to the governor. The joint task force shall, as part of the
17 comparison, examine the administrative structures used in other states
18 to deliver social and health services to children and families.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Membership of the joint task force shall
20 consist of the following:

21 (a) The dean of the school of social work at the University of
22 Washington or an academic professor from a list recommended by the
23 dean, jointly appointed by the chairs of the house of representatives
24 children and family services committee and the senate human services
25 and corrections committee;

26 (b) Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the
27 speaker of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be a member
28 of the majority caucus and one of whom shall be a member of the

1 minority caucus, and two members of the senate appointed by the
2 president of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the majority
3 caucus and one of whom shall be a member of the minority caucus;

4 (c) The secretary of the department of social and health services
5 or the secretary's designee;

6 (d) An individual with previous experience as an administrator of
7 a public agency providing services to children and families, jointly
8 appointed by the chairs of the house of representatives children and
9 family services committee and the senate human services and corrections
10 committee;

11 (e) A juvenile court administrator, jointly appointed by the chairs
12 of the house of representatives children and family services committee
13 and the senate human services and corrections committee;

14 (f) A family superior court judge, jointly appointed by the chairs
15 of the house of representatives children and family services committee
16 and the senate human services and corrections committee;

17 (g) The director of the office of the family and children's
18 ombudsman;

19 (h) A social worker with experience in the public sector serving
20 children and families, jointly appointed by the chairs of the house of
21 representatives children and family services committee and the senate
22 human services and corrections committee; and

23 (i) Two representatives of community-based providers serving
24 children and families, jointly appointed by the chairs of the house of
25 representatives children and family services committee and the senate
26 human services and corrections committee.

27 (2) The dean of the school of social work at the University of
28 Washington or the academic professor appointed from a list recommended
29 by the dean shall be the chair of the joint task force.

30 (3) Staff support for the joint task force shall be provided by the
31 house of representatives office of program research and senate
32 committee services.

33 (4) Legislative members of the joint task force shall be reimbursed
34 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
35 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
36 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
37 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The joint task force shall make
2 recommendations concerning which administrative structure or structures
3 would best realize efficiencies in administration and best achieve
4 positive outcomes for children and families, including, but not limited
5 to, the following:

6 (a) Reducing the number of children at risk for abuse or neglect
7 and increasing the safety and well-being of children;

8 (b) Increasing the ability of families to care for their own
9 children and reducing the number of children in foster care;

10 (c) Increasing placement stability and permanency for children in
11 out-of-home care and reducing unsafe and inappropriate placements;

12 (d) Delivering appropriate and timely mental health services;

13 (e) Providing adequate and appropriate staff training and
14 education;

15 (f) Promoting foster parent recruitment, training, and retention;

16 (g) Reducing the frequency and duration of sibling separation;

17 (h) Delivering adequate and timely services to adolescents; and

18 (i) Increasing responsibility and accountability for achieving
19 goals.

20 (2) The joint task force shall also make recommendations concerning
21 the costs, benefits, savings, or reductions in services associated with
22 the various administrative structures considered by the joint task
23 force.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The joint task force shall report its
25 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
26 legislature by December 1, 2005."

27 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Requires the joint task force, in comparing the
effectiveness of administrative structures, to consider creation of a
children and family services cabinet reporting directly to the
Governor.

Changes the following with respect to the membership of the joint
task force:

(1) Adds the following to the membership: The Secretary of DSHS,
an individual with previous experience as an administrator of a public

agency providing services to children and families, and two representatives of community-based providers serving children and families.

(2) Removes the following from the membership: An academic professor with expertise in the management of public agencies, a law enforcement officer, the Director of the Washington State Office of Public Defense, a line worker from the JRA's Division of Community Programs, a private vendor of mental health services to children and families, the Director of the CA's Office of Legislative Affairs; and a representative of the Governor's Office.

(3) Requires that members of the joint task force be jointly appointed by the Chairs of the House Children and Family Services Committee and the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee, rather than by the Governor.

Requires the joint task force to report its recommendations to both the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature. Removes the requirement that the first meeting be no later than May 1, 2005, and removes the specification that the task force may consult with others as needed.

Provides that staff support for the joint task force is to be provided by the House of Representatives Office of Program Research and Senate Committee Services.

Specifies the mechanisms for reimbursement of members of the joint task force for travel expenses.

Removes the emergency clause.

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